

Good morning Chairman Lake and members of the House Taxation Committee. I am Representative Dee Brown from House District 3 which is the grizzly and huckleberry capital of Montana on the west side of Glacier Park.

HB 329 is a response to private property rights in the Flathead Valley. The elected officials in Whitefish want to govern outside the city limits while the people in the donut area have no rights to vote for the officials trying to take over their governance. Most of these 'donut' people want to remain under county jurisdiction so court cases have been filed on both sides of the issue, essentially leaving the donut area brewing in a scalding cup of cappuccino.

HB329 specifies that if a town in Montana wants to include more than 6,500 people under its rules and regulations then the result will be the end of the ability to collect the resort tax. You can't have your donut and eat it, too.

Thank you, Chairman Lake and members of the House Taxation Committee. I urge a 'do pass' on HB329 and reserve the right to close.


Representative Dee Brown, HD3